

The unsatisfactory character of this account is mainly due to disputes as to the supply of water, and in some measure to a misconception of the Order in Council passed on 15th December, 1874, ordering certain abatements upon conditions therein stated. There are, however, among these claims large sums which are clearly due to the Government but which the parties will probably defer paying until compelled thereto by process of law.

CULLING TIMBER.

The fees accrued for culling timber in 1875-6 amounted to \$71,952. In the previous year they amounted to \$89,597. Of the amount due in the past fiscal year only \$57,125 was collected. The outstanding claims in this branch of the service now amount to an aggregate of \$33,901. The law does not give the Government a lien on the timber for the Culler's fees and there may therefore be some difficulty in collecting the whole of the amount above stated.

BILL STAMPS.

The revenue from this source in 1875-6 was \$226,959, as compared with \$244,303 received during the previous year. There has therefore been a falling off in this branch of the revenue of \$17,444.

WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND GAS.

An account of expenditures and receipts in connection with this service will be found at p. 36. The Acts 26 Vic., cap. 47 and 48 came into operation on the 1st of July, 1875, but owing to the large amount of work involved in making the preliminary arrangements but little was accomplished towards the practical work of inspection during the past fiscal year.

It will be my duty to prepare a special report in relation to this service, and as it is desirable to give in it as much information as possible as to the practical working of the law, I propose to include in it the transactions of the first six months of the current fiscal year.

INSPECTION OF STAPLE ARTICLES.

During the past year, eight Boards of Examiners were constituted:—

The particulars are given in Appendix D to this report.

A list of certificates granted during the past year will be found in Appendix G and in the following Appendix F will be found a complete list of Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors, authorized to act prior and up to 1st November, 1876.

It is still found very difficult to obtain returns from this class of Inspectors in a satisfactory state, so much so that it became necessary to go to press with the Department report without including them. A general summary of such as have been obtained will be found in Appendix H to this report. It is hoped that before the end of another year, the Department will be able to obtain more satisfactory results in relation to this service.